



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**John Hoeven**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH**  
JANUARY 2009

**WHEREAS**, birth defects can occur in any family, regardless of the parents' race, health history, economic status or education; and

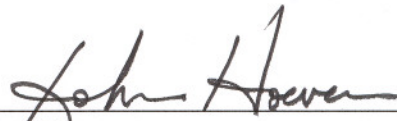
**WHEREAS**, birth defects affect one in every 33 babies in the United States and are a leading cause of death; in North Dakota, about one in every five infant deaths are the result of birth defects; and

**WHEREAS**, early identification of a child with a birth defect and early intervention services typically improve the child's quality of life, and may even save his or her life; and

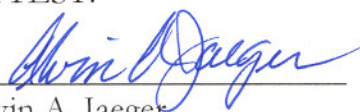
**WHEREAS**, babies born to mothers who are overweight or obese are more at risk for birth defects, resulting from the mothers' increased risk of developing high blood pressure, preeclampsia and gestational diabetes during pregnancy, and having labor and delivery complications; and

**WHEREAS**, women are encouraged to take a multivitamin with folic acid during pregnancy to prevent serious defects of the brain and spinal cord, and to help their babies reach a healthy weight.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim January 2009, **BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

  
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John Hoeven  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State